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IN DEFENCE OF LYDGATE: LYDGATE'S USE OF BINOMIALS IN HIS *TROY BOOK* (PART 2)

Abstract

Section 9 deals with variation, i.e. words that are used in different combinations, section 10 with the sequence of the elements and possible reasons for the sequence (phonologic, semantic, translational), and section 11 with the relation to Lydgate's Latin source. Section 12 traces Lydgate's relation to Chaucer: It is well known that Lydgate was a Chaucerian, i.e. an admirer and follower of Chaucer, but perhaps not so well known that he also used many binomials which Chaucer had used. Section 13 lists the binomials that can be regarded as formulaic, and section 14 singles out a pair of binomials where the first binomial is apparently learned, while the second states the same fact in more popular terms. Section 15 provides a conclusion, and Appendix I lists all binomials that occur at the beginning of Lydgate's *Troy Book*. The figure in Appendix II shows the Primum Mobile and the seat of God according to the Medieval world picture (as discussed in section 14).

9. Variation and repetition

If each of the 180 binomials consisted of entirely different words, then they would comprise 360 different words altogether. But this is not the case. Lydgate uses many words repeatedly, in two (or more) partly different combinations, where one word is the same but the other is different. In the Prologue and the beginning of Book I there are 29 words that occur in two or more partly different binomials. The word that is employed most frequently in partly different binomials is *land* with four instances (even five, if the trinomial where it also occurs is taken into consideration);

several words occur in three partly different binomials (*to cast*, *destruction*, *fresh*, *king*, *root*). Some words always occupy the same position (first word or second word), whereas others have different positions. Thus, for example, *hear*, *labour* and *meyne* 'group, company' come always first, and *destruction* comes always second. On the other hand, e.g. *advertence*, *green*, *king*, and *might* come sometimes first and sometimes second. How far these frequencies and distributions were done on purpose and how far they are accidental would, of course, also have to be checked on a larger amount of material (ideally the entire *Troy Book*):

- *advertence*: 'advertence and inspection' (*His aduerence and clere inspectioun*, I: 671);[1] 'wisdom and advertence' (*for wisdam & prudent aduertence*, I: 71);
- *cast*: 'cast and fantasize' (*cast and fantasieth*, I: 200); 'cast and lay very low' (*cast and leide full lowe*, I: 642); 'to expel and cast out', lit. 'fordrive and cast' (*fordryue and cast*, I: 718);
- *discreet*: 'discreet and sage' (*discrete and sage*, I: 686); 'discreet and wise' (*discrete & wyse*, I: 679);
- *destruction*: 'ruin and destruction' (*the rueyne and distruccioun*, Pr.: 224; synonymous); 'siege and destruction' (*The sege also and the destruccioun*, Pr.: 107; sequence); 'mischief and destruction' (*þe grete meschefes and destrucciouns*, I: 369; climax);
- *fresh*: 'fresh and gay' (*fresche & gay*, Pr.: 276); 'green and fresh' (*grene & fresche*, I: 141); 'lusty and fresh' (*þat lusty fresche sesoun*, I: 638);
- *green*: 'green and fresh' (*grene and fresche*, I: 141); 'green and tender' (*inly grene and tender*, I: 166);
- *heart*: 'with heart and whole intent' (*with hert and hool entent*, I: 561); 'with humble heart and whole intention' (*With humble herte and hool intencioun*, I: 526);
- *king*: 'kings and dukes' (*of kynges and of dukes*, Pr.: 337); 'governor and king' (*as gouernour and kyng*, I: 7); 'a governor, a noble king, a worthy warrior' (*a gouernour / A noble kynge, a worthi weriour*, I: 263–264);
- *labour*: 'labour and business' (*her labour and her besynesse*, Pr.: 205); 'labour and diligence' (*Besy labour and wilful diligence*, I: 72);
- *land*: 'by land or by navy' (*by lond or by navie*, Pr.: 329); 'land and region' (*In many londe and many regioun*, I: 462); 'land and sea' (*on lond and see*, I: 662); 'reign and land' (*regne & lond*, I: 1); 'kingdom – land – heritage' (*kingdom … lande … eritage*, I: 178–179);
- *leuene* 'lightning': 'lightning and wildfire' (*leuene & wylde fire*, I: 286); 'tempest and lightning' (*With sodeyn tempest and with fery levene*, I: 16);
- *lusty*: 'lusty fresh season' (*þat lusty fresche sesounv* I: 638); 'so lusty and so new' (*so lusty and so newe*, I: 380);
- *manhood*: 'for his growth and for his manhood' (*for his encres / and for his manhood*, I: 197); 'of knighthood and manhood' (*of knyȝthood and manhed*, I: 492);

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[1] The following abbreviations are used: Pr. = Prologue; I = Book I.; CT = *Canterbury Tales*.

'of manhood and of might' (*of manhood and of my3t*, I: 99; *of manhood and of my3te*, I: 564); 'manhood and prowess' (*of manhood and prowesse*, I: 412);

- *meyne* 'group, company': 'company or expense' (*meyne or costage*, I: 495); 'company and victuals' (*meyne and vitaille*, I: 547);
- *might*: 'force and might' (*of verray force and my3t*, I: 293); 'with might and cunning' (*with my3t & slei3te*, I: 574);
- *mind*: 'wit and mind' (*wit & mynde*, I: 122); 'mind and memory' (*both mynde and memorial*, I: 113);
- *old*: 'of old and young' (*of old & 3onge*, I: 163); 'dry and old' (*drye and olde*, I: 138);
- *pride*: 'pride and presumption' (*pride and presumpcioun*, Pr.: 72); 'surquidry and pride' (*Of surquedrye or pride*, I: 452);
- *root*: 'beginning and root' (*the gynnyng and rote*, Pr.: 328); 'ground and root' (*Grunde & rote*, I: 357); 'crop and root' (*crop and rote*, I: 240);
- *sorrow*: 'sorrow and sin' (*sorowe and synne*, I: 240); 'sorrow and woe' (*sorwe and wo*, I: 248);
- *star*: 'the pole and the seven stars' (*þe pole and þe sterres seuene*, I: 476); 'stars and constellation' (*sterrys and constellacioun*, I: 672);
- *tempest*: 'tempest and lightning' (*With sodeyn tempest and with fery levene*, I: 16); 'tempest or wind' (*Tempest or wynd*, I: 662);
- *war*: 'war and strife' (*were and stryf*, Pr.: 18; synonymous); 'war and peace' (*were and pees*, I: 1; antonymous); 'peace and war' (*pes and were*, I: 269; antonymous);
- *wise* (in trinomials): 'wise and discreet and also virtuous' (*Wys, & discrete & also virtuous*, I: 4); 'wise, discreet and sage' (*wis, discret, and sagev* I: 265);
- *wit*: 'wit and mind' (*wit & mynde*, I: 122); 'wit and reason' (*witte & resoun*, I: 144);
- *woe*: 'woe and great adversity' (*wo and gret aduersite*, I: 43); 'of woe and all bad luck [mischance]' (*of wo and al meschaunce*, I: 357); 'sorrow and woe' (*sorwe and wo*, I: 248);
- *young*: 'young and desirous' (*3onge and desyrous*, I: 386); 'young and slender' (*3onge and sklender*, I: 165).

Three binomials are used twice with an identical sequence of elements:

- *behold and see*: *beholde and se* (Pr.: 369); *beholde and see* (I: 64);
- *high and low*: *hy3e and lowe* (I: 158); *hi3e and lowe* (I: 442);
- *pale and wan*: *pale and wan* (Pr.: 132); *pale and wan* (I: 46).

Three binomials are also used twice, but with a varying order of elements. Some researchers apparently regard binomials with a different sequence of elements as different binomials (e.g. Tyrkkö 2017), but I regard them as variants of the same binomial:

- *cheer* 'mood' – *countenance*: 'neither in cheer nor in countenance' (*in chere nor in countenaunce*, I: 174); 'in countenance and cheer' (*in countenaunce and chere*, I: 425);

- *day – night*: 'day and night' (*day and ny3te*, I: 655); 'night nor day' (*ny3t nor day*, I: 473);
- *peace – war*: 'in peace and war' (*In pes and were*, I: 269); 'war and peace' (*were and pees*, I: 1).

In any case this brings us to our next question, namely whether the sequence of elements is of importance.

10. Sequence of elements

A considerable amount of research has been devoted to the sequence of the elements in binomials, and possible reasons or factors for that sequence.[2] Among the important factors are phonological, semantic and translational ones. These explain a number of instances, but unfortunately there are also exceptions and cases that cannot be easily explained.

10.1. Phonological factors

There is a tendency for the shorter element to precede the longer one. A few examples (mainly from the Prologue) are: 'craft and cadence' (*by crafte & cadence*, Pr.: 362); 'labour and business' (*her labour and her besynesse*, Pr.: 205); 'pride and presumption' (*pride and presumpcioun*, Pr.: 72); 'siege and destruction' (*The sege also and the destruccioun*, Pr.: 107); 'sloth and idleness' (*slouthe and ydelnesse*, Pr.: 83); 'advertence and inspection' (*aduertence and clere inspectioun*, I: 671); 'wisdom and advertence' (*wisdam & prudent aduertence*, I: 71).

Unfortunately there are also counter-examples, where the longer element precedes the shorter one. For instance: 'contest and strife' (*of contek and of strif*, Pr.: 21); 'power and might' (*the power & þe my3t*, Pr.: 2); 'sovereign and patron' (*souereyn and patrown*, Pr.: 7); 'behold and see' (*3e may beholde and se*, Pr.: 369; I: 64). In the binomials with varying sequence often one sequence fulfils the expectation, namely that the shorter element precedes the longer one, but the other sequence thwarts this expectation, i.e. the longer element precedes the shorter one, counter to the expectation, e.g. in 'cast and fantasize' (*cast and fantasieth*, I: 200) the longer element follows the shorter, but in 'fordrive and cast' (*fordryue and cast*, I: 718) the longer element precedes the shorter. Of course, we have no recordings of Middle English pronunciation and it has to be reconstructed; one question is, for example, how far the final ‹-e› was still pronounced and how far it had become silent (cf., e.g. *werre and stryf*, Pr.: 18; *welle and spryng*, Pr.: 96; *pale and wan*, Pr.: 132) – in Lydgate's time it was probably usually silent, i.e. *war*, *well*, *pale* were probably monosyllabic. And there are also binomials whose elements are of equal length, e.g. 'honour and glory' (*the honour and the glorie*, Pr.: 215); 'high and low' (*to hy3e and lowe*, Pr.: 112).

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[2]   See, e.g. Malkiel (1959), Mollin (2014).

10.2. Semantic factors

The more important element comes before the less important one;[3] e.g. higher social rank or function comes first: 'kings and dukes' (*of kynges and of dukes*, Pr.: 337); 'sovereign and patron' (*souereyn and patrown*, Pr.: 7); 'high and low' (*to hyȝe and lowe*, Pr.: 112; cf. Pr.: 182). Perhaps here also belongs: 'Latin and French' (*As in latyn and in frensche*, Pr.: 115; Latin as the older and at least for the church and for scholarship, also as the more important language). But again, there are exceptions, e.g. god follows lord in: 'the mighty lord, the god armipotent' (*The myghty lorde, the god armypotent*, Pr.: 4). An explanation for the sequence 'day and night' (*bothe day and nyȝte*, I: 655) could be that the day is more important than the night (and that the night is also closer associated with evil), but there is also the opposite sequence 'night nor day' (*nyȝt nor day*, I: 473).

10.3. Translational factors

In translated binomials the sequence of the elements in the translation often follows their sequence in the original. But because Lydgate's version is rather free, there are few binomials in Guido's Latin that correspond directly to Lydgate's Middle English, so that often no direct comparison is possible (see section 11 below). Lydgate's 'first moving' (*firste meyving*, Pr.: 327) is a translation of Latin *primum mobile*.

10.4. Other factors

As mentioned in section 8.3.(7) in Part 1, if there is a sequence of events, this is often mirrored in the binomials: 'siege and destruction' (*The sege also and the destruccion*, Pr.: 107).

Unfortunately, for many binomials there is no easy explanation or obvious reason for the sequence of their elements, e.g. for 'the beginning and the root' (*the gynnyng and rote*, Pr.: 328; *gynnyng* is used literally and *rote* is used metaphorically, but also the longer word precedes the shorter word); 'colour and hue' (*of colour and of hewe*, Pr.: 254), 'honour and glory' (*the honour and the glorie*, Pr.: 215).

11. Relation to source

As the main source for his *Troy Book*, Lydgate uses Guido de Columnis' Latin prose text *Historia destructionis Troiae* (completed 1287).[4] He often refers to the author of his source. The Prologue is his own, but from the beginning of Book I he follows Guido's basic story; in many details his rendering is very free, however. Therefore

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[3]   The so-called 'Me first' principle does not sound convincing to me.

[4]   The name is also given as Guido delle Colonne, but according to F. Bruni in *LexM* IV, s.v. *Guido* 11 (G. de Columnis), Guido de Columnis is probably not identical with Guido delle Colonne. On Lydgate's relation to his source, see, e.g. Koch (1936).

it is also often difficult to compare his use of binomials with the binomials in his source, and often there is no or no clear correspondence. This is partly due to the fact that Lydgate transformed a Latin prose text into a Middle English verse text, but partly also to the fact that he inserted many details that were not in his source, including many binomials. Though in this connection I shall confine myself to only a brief sketch, a more detailed investigation later would certainly be useful.

Apparently Lydgate uses more binomials than his Latin source, which conforms to the general impression that the English translators and versifiers were on the whole fonder of binomials than the authors of their sources.[5] A case where he clearly expands a single Latin word into a binomial is: "in regno" (Griffin 1936: 5) – 'in the reign and land' (*In þe regne & lond*, I: 1).

But there are also a few instances when he does not render a Latin binomial in his English verse re-telling, but simplifies it to one word, and in some cases he even renders a Latin binomial very approximately. Examples where he simplifies a Latin binomial are:

- "renunciauit et cessit" (Griffin 1936: 6) – 'he has resigned' (*He hath resigned*, I: 119);
- "in iuuentutis flores et iuueniles potentias renouatum" (Griffin 1936: 6) – 'to youth he was restored … and renewed to his lustiness' (*To ȝouthe he was restored … And renewed to his lustynesse*, I: 1313): *flores* has been omitted and *iuueniles potentias* has been condensed into *lustynesse*.

Examples where he renders a Latin binomial very approximately and with some changes are:

- "Hunc Thesalie primates et nobiles, hunc plebei" (Griffin 1936: 6) – 'to high and low' (*to hyȝe and lowe*, I: 158): *primates et nobiles* has been condensed to *hyȝe*, and *plebei* is rendered by *lowe*; *high and low* was apparently a formulaic binomial to refer to all ranks of society;[6]
- "iustus et nobilis" (Griffin 1936: 5) – 'wise and discreet and also virtuous' (*Wys & discrete & also vertuous*, I: 4): the Latin binomial has been expanded into a ME trinomial; the ME words do not really correspond to the Latin ones;
- "custoditum fuisse mirabili cura et studio dei Martis" (Griffin 1936: 7) – 'that was committed … to the keeping and busy cure of cruel Mars' (*That was committed … / To the kepyng and the besy cure / Of cruel Mars*, I: 275–277): *mirabili cura et studio* has been translated as *to the kepyng and the besy cure*, but *besy* 'busy' is not really a translation of *mirabilis*, and the simple *Mars* has been expanded to *cruel Mars*; *crueel Mars* is also used by Chaucer (*Canterbury Tales*, "Man of Law's tale": 301);

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5   See, e.g. Sauer (2018) on the Middle English and Early Modern English translations of Boccaccio's *De mulieribus claris*, where there are many more binomials in the English versions than in the Latin original.

6   Cf. Schenk (2017).

- "per incantationem tamen figmenta et artes mathamaticas constitutas" (Griffin 1936: 7) – 'kept it by incantations, by sorcery and false illusions' (*Made kepe it by incantaciouns, / By sorserye and fals illucions*, I: 349–350): *incantationes* has been taken over literally; *figmenta* is apparently rendered by *fals illucions*, and *artes mathamaticas* by *sorserye*.

Examples of an expansion are:

- "medicabili cura et artifiosa uirtute Medeae" (Griffin 1936: 6) – 'for with their herbs and their poisons, subtle workings of confections, also by the artfulness of their instruments' (*For with hyr herbes and hir pociouns, / Sotyl wyrchyngees of confecciouns, / By queintyse eke of heir instrumentys*, I: 133–135);
- "in apparatu maximo et comitiue multorum" (Griffin 1936: 8) – 'in company and expense' (*in meyne or costage*, I: 495; *meyne* 'retainers'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *meine*, and *MED*, s.v. *costage* 'cost, expense'); 'company and victuals' (*meyne and vitaille*, I: 547): Lydgate apparently translated the Latin binomial twice, and in a slightly different way, but omitted the adjectives.

A multinomial that Lydgate imitated but also changed is: "Iason nomine, vir fortis et strenuous et iuuenis, nimium speciosus, modestus, largus, affabilis, tractabilis, pius et omni morum uenustate corruscus" (Griffin 1936: 6) – 'his shape and also his fairness, his strength, his beauty and his liveliness, his gentilesse and wise governance – how large he was …' (*his schap and also his fayrnes / His strenthe, his bewte, and is lyflynes, / His gentiles and wyse gouuernaunce, / How large he was …*, I: 153–156): Guido uses mainly adjectives, which Lydgate has mostly transformed into nouns. Apparently *fortis* is rendered by *stren(g)the*, *speciosus* by *his schap and also his fayrnes*, *largus* by *large*; *modestus* is perhaps rendered by *wyse gouuernaunce*; *affabilis* and *pius et omni morum uenustate corruscus* are not really rendered.

12. Relation to Chaucer

Since Lydgate was an admirer and follower of Chaucer, it does not come as a surprise that he also used some of the binomials that Chaucer did. A cursory check, without claim to completeness, yielded ten binomials common for both Lydgate and Chaucer. Mostly Lydgate and Chaucer have the same sequence, but there are also a few instances where Lydgate has a different sequence (see: 'honour and glory'):

1. 'child and man' (*bothe child and man*: Chaucer, CT, Knight: 2830);
2. 'free – bonded' (*fre – bonde*: Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde: 1.840);
3. 'fresh and gay' (*fressh and gay*: Chaucer, CT, Monk: Hercules: 2122);
4. 'hate and envy' (*to hate and to envye*: Chaucer, CT, Parson, De Accidia: 724);
5. 'high and low' (*heigh and logh*: Chaucer, CT, Man of law: 1142);

6. 'holt and heath' (*holt and heeth*: Chaucer, CT, General prologue: 6);
7. 'honour and glory' (Lydgate, Pr.: 215) – 'glory and honour' (*Glorie and honour*: Chaucer, CT, Monk: Belshazzar: 2211);
8. 'pale and wan' (*bothe pale and wan*: Chaucer, CT, Miller: 3828);
9. 'rest and quiet' (*in reste and in quiete*: Lydgate I: 444) – 'quiet and rest' (*in quiete and in reste*: Chaucer, CT, Franklin: 760);
10. 'war and peace' (*were and pees*: Lydgate, I: 1) – 'war and no peace' (*werre, and nothyng pees*: Chaucer, CT, Sir Thopas: 882);
11. 'up and down' (*up and doun*: Chaucer, CT, Knight: 2599).

A question of investigative interest is how far Lydgate borrowed directly from Chaucer and how far both relied on a common tradition of formulaic binomials, but this question is not always easy to answer. The most striking case is probably *holt and heth* 'grove and field' (I: 644), in a passage (I: 623 ff.) where Lydgate obviously imitates or emulates the beginning of the General prologue of the *Canterbury Tales*. Therefore it is likely that he took the binomial *holt and heath* directly from Chaucer. And again referring to Gustafsson's criticism we may ask: Why should it be bad for Lydgate to use a binomial if it is good when Chaucer uses it?

There are also binomials which Lydgate has in common with other authors, e.g.:

1. *chere & countenance* (John Shirley);[7]
2. *false & envious* (Nicholas Love).[8]

13. Formulaic binomials

The main criterion for formulaic binomials is certainly that they are used frequently, and in several authors and periods of English. A fixed sequence is probably not a decisive criterion, because some of the frequent and formulaic binomials also have a flexible sequence, in our material especially *day and night*, which Lydgate also uses in the sequence *night and day* (cf. Berger 1993: 67, 120). The following cases were certainly formulaic, and most of them are still formulaic:

1. Among the nouns:
    - – 'crop and root';
    - 'day and night' (formulaic since OE; cf. Berger 1993: 67–68);
    - 'rest and quiet';
    - 'war and peace' (cf. much later the famous novel by Lew Tolstoy).
2. Among the adjectives:
    - 'high and low';
    - 'hot and dry' (as the standard description of the attributes of fire);
    - 'pale and wan' (still used in Sir John Suckling's poem of 1638, "Why so pale and wan fond Lover").

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[7]   John Shirley (died 1456), *The Dethe of the Kynge of Scotis*.
[8]   Nicholas Love (died 1424), *Myrrour of the Blessed Lyf of Jesu Christ*.

3. Among the adverbs:
   - 'by and by';
   - 'near or far' (today usually 'far or near');
   - 'to and fro'.

Perhaps all the binomials that Lydgate has in common with Chaucer should also be regarded as formulaic.

14. Learned and popular binomials

Lydgate was a learned poet and this is also reflected in some of his binomials (cf. 'Parcae and Furies'; 'Dictys and Dares'; 'Polyneikes and Etheokles'). In his Prologue (lines 326–328) Lydgate uses a sequence of two binomials, namely:

Of the story, as men in bokys fynde,	(Pr.: 326)
The firste mevyng and cause original,	(Pr.: 327)
What was the gynnyng and rote in special	(Pr.: 328)

'Of the story, as men find it in books,
the first origin [moving] and the original cause,
what was the beginning and the origin [root] in particular'

Lydgate here refers to the "original cause" and the beginning of the Trojan War with two binomials. The first ('first moving and cause original') is the more learned phrase, and the second ('beginning and root') is the more popular phrase (although *root* is here used in a metaphorical sense and not in its literal sense). But Lydgate also uses the first binomial in a transferred sense. Originally 'first moving and cause original' had a different meaning, and there is a long philosophical and astronomical tradition and a chain of loan-translations behind it. *Firste mevyng* translates Latin *primum mobile* 'the first source of motion', which in turn apparently goes back to Avicenna's Arabic *al-muharrik al-awwal*. Ultimately the idea seems to go back to Aristotle, and it was elaborated by Ptolemy. The *primum mobile* (*first mevyng*) refers to 'the outermost of the concentric spheres of the heavens, primum mobile' (*MED*, s.v. *mēvinge* 1b). Outside the *primum mobile* is the Empyreum (Empyrean), the seat of God himself; see, e.g. the world picture implied in Dante's *Divina Commedia*, which was probably still valid for Lydgate.[9] Contrary to Gustafsson's judgement (see § 5 in Part 1) the two binomials discussed here do not show "unnecessary repetitions" without any "semantic or psychological reason" behind them; the first binomial has a rich tradition behind it, and the second one explains the first in easier and more popular terms. Chaucer also uses 'first moving' (*O firste moevyng!*, *Canterbury Tales*, Man of law: 295), but he does not expand it into a binomial.

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[9]   See the figure given in Appendix II; cf. also the chapter by Gisela Seitschek in Sauer, Seitschek, Teuber (2016), and map 8c (p. 356) in that volume; furthermore Lewis (1964).

15. Conclusion

The present article (in two parts) pursues a twofold aim. The first aim is a look at Lydgate's binomials (more precisely: the binomials at the beginning of his *Troy Book*) mainly from a linguistic point of view, by analyzing, e.g. their word-classes, their etymologic structure (native words or loan-words), their semantic structure (synonymy, antonymy, complementarity), and their formulaicity. The second aim is to defend Lydgate against unjustified criticism. Admittedly Lydgate is not a second Chaucer, although he is an admirer and follower of Chaucer. Chaucer, however, is such an exceptional figure that no Middle English poet can really match him. Like Chaucer, Lydgate is very fond of rhetoric, and partly he uses the same binomials as Chaucer. If those binomials are good when Chaucer uses them, they cannot be bad when Lydgate uses them. Moreover, Lydgate employs some binomials that became famous through their use by later writers: *pale and wan* features in the first line of a poem (see above) from 1638 by Sir John Suckling, and some binomials were (and still are) apparently used cross-linguistically: *war and peace* is not only an antonymous and formulaic binomial used by Lydgate, but also the title of a famous novel by Tolstoj.[11] At least in one case Lydgate employs a binomial that has a long and rich tradition behind it: 'first moving and cause original' is not, as has been claimed for Lydgate, without any semantic or psychological reason – on the contrary, it encapsulates the medieval world-picture by alluding to the outermost sphere of the heavens, the *primum mobile*, which it translates into Middle English.

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[11] The original title of Tolstoj's novel *War and peace* is *Война и мир* [vojna i mir] – I owe this information to my colleague Ulrich Schweier. How far the same or corresponding binomials are used in several languages is, of course, an interesting question, but this would require separate research. A recent publication of binomials in titles of books is Schauer, Lepper (2018).

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Appendix I

List of Lydgate's binomials in the Prologue and in Book I of his *Troy Book*

If the ME words still exist in ModE, they are first given in their ModE form and then in their ME form; if they no longer exist in ModE or if the ModE form is very different from the ME form, they are only given in their ME form and then they are explained.

1. Binomials

1.1. Nouns

1.1.1. Nouns (Prologue)

1. beginning and root (*the gynnyng and rote*, Pr.: 328)
2. bidding – pleasance (*My lordes byddyng fully and plesaunce*, Pr.: 74)
3. colour and hue (*of colour and of hewe*, Pr.: 254)
4. contest and strife (*of contek and of strif*, Pr.: 21)
5. craft and cadence (*by crafte & cadence*, Pr.: 362)
6. crop and root (*crop and rote*, Pr.: 229)
7. death nor age (*deth nor age*, Pr.: 257)
8. heart – intention (*of humble herte and lowe entencioun*, Pr.: 381)
9. honour and glory (*the honour and the glorie*, Pr.: 215)
10. kings and dukes (*of kynges and of dukes*, Pr.: 337)
11. land or navy (*by lond or by navie*, Pr.: 329)
12. joy – dainty (*Ioye and gret deynte*, Pr.: 79)
13. labour and business (*her labour and her besynesse*, Pr.: 205)
14. lack or price (*With lak or prys*, Pr.: 188)

15. Latin and French (*As in latyn and in frensche*, Pr.: 115)
16. lord – god (*The mighty lorde, the god armypotent*, Pr.: 4)
17. manners – name (*of maneris and of name*, Pr.: 100)
18. moving – cause (*The firste mevyng and cause original*, Pr.: 327)
19. nature and kind (*nature and kynde*, Pr.: 160)
20. Parcae and furies (*parchas and furies infernal*, Pr.: 51)
21. power and might (*the power & þe myȝt*, Pr.: 2)
22. pride and presumption (*pride and presumpcioun*, Pr.: 72)
23. ruin and destruction (*the rueyne and distruccioun*, Pr.: 224)
24. ships – victuals (*Of her schippes nor of her vitaille*, Pr.: 333)
25. siege – destruction (*The sege also and the destruccioun*, Pr.: 107)
26. singularity and false affection (*singulerte and false affeccioun*, Pr.: 289)
27. sloth and idleness (*slouthe and ydelnesse*, Pr.: 83)
28. sovereign and patron (*souereyn and patrown*, Pr.: 7)
29. war and strife (*werre and stryf*, Pr.: 18)
30. well and spring (*of knyȝthood welle & spryng*, Pr.: 96)

Names: Persons, places
31. city – Ilion (*Of the cite and noble Yllyoun*, Pr.: 342)
32. Dictys and Dares (*Dite and Dares*, Pr.: 356)
33. Polyneikes and Etheokles (*Polynece and Ethiocles*, Pr.: 231)

1.1.2. Nouns (Book I)

1. advertence and inspection (*His aduertence and clere inspectioun*, I: 671)
2. advice and diligence (*With gret avis and grete diligence*, I: 261)
3. advice and treatable (*with al þis avise and tretable*, I: 159)
4. azure and gold (*with asour & with golde to peynte*, I: 384)
5. branches and boughs (*þis braunchis and þise bowis glade*, I: 634)
6. breadth and length (*in brede and lenthe*, I: 484)
7. case – adventure (*of caase or aventure*, I: 34)
8. chamber and table (*As diligent in chamber and at table*, I: 170)
9. charms and enchantments (*With hir charmys and enchauntementys*, I: 136)
10. cheer – countenance (*in chere nor in countenaunce*, I: 174); see also: countenance and cheer
11. child or man (*As euere was any childe or man*, I: 171)
12. circle and constellation (*cercle and constellacioun*, I: 692)
13. countenance and cheer (*in countenaunce and chere*, I: 425); see also: cheer and countenance
14. crop and root (*crop and rote*, I: 240)
15. crown and sceptre (*Crovne and septre with al the regalye*, I: 118)
16. custom and law (*by custom and by lawe*, I: 320)
17. day and night (*bothe day and nyȝte*, I: 655); cf. night – day
18. estate royal and diadem (*Estate royal and also diademe*, I: 120)
19. favour – mead (*for fauour ne for mede*, I: 339)

20. force and might (*of verray force and my3t*, I: 293)
21. foreseeing and discretion (*By for-seynge and discrecioun*, I: 73)
22. freedom and largess (*To manly fredam and to hy3e largesse*, I: 438)
23. gentilesse and governance (*His gentiles and wyse gouernaunce*, I: 155)
24. gold and treasure (*golde & gret tresour*, I: 347)
25. governor and king (*as gouernour and kyng*, I: 7)
26. ground and root (*Grunde & rote*, I: 357)
27. harness and array (*in harneys and array*, I: 497)
28. hate and envy (*of hate and of envie*, I: 190)
29. heart and intent (*with hert and hool entent*, I: 561)
30. heart and intention (*With humble herte and hool intencioun*, I: 526)
31. herbs and potions (*with hyr herbes and hir pociouns*, I: 133)
32. holt and heath (*On holt and heth*, I: 644)
33. hour and time (*eery hour and tyme*, I: 203)
34. increase and manhood (*for his encres / and for his manhood*, I: 197): *encres* lit. 'increase', can also mean 'growth'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *encrēs*
35. keeping and cure (*To the kepyng and the besy cure / Of cruel Mars*, I: 276–7)
36. knighthood and manhood (*of kny3thood and manhed*, I: 492)
37. labour and diligence (*Besy labour and wilful diligence*, I: 72)
38. land and region (*In many londe and many regioun*, I: 462)
39. land and sea (*on lond and see*, I: 662)
40. lightning and wildfire (*leuene & wyldefire*, I: 286)
41. lords and barony (*Of his lordys and his baronye*, I: 391)
42. lordship and regalia (*the lordschipe and the regallye*, I: 6)
43. love and worship (*for loue and worschip*, I: 552)
44. manhood and might (*of manhood and of my3t*, I: 99; *of manhood and of my3te*, I: 564)
45. manhood and prowess (*of manhood and prowesse*, I: 412)
46. memory and reason (*both memorie and resoun*, I: 125)
47. *meine* or cost (*meyne or costage*, I: 495): *meine* 'group, company, retainers'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *meinē*
48. *meine* and victuals (*meyne and vitaille*, I: 547): *meine* 'group, company, retainers'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *meinē*
49. might and sleight (*with my3t & slei3te*, I: 574): *slei3te* 'strategy, stratagem, slyness, cunning'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *sleight*
50. mind and memory (*both mynde and memorial*, I: 113)
51. mischief and destruction (*þe grete meschefes and destrucciouns*, I: 369)
52. needle and stone (*of needle and of stoon*, I: 685)
53. night – day (*ny3t nor day*, I: 473): cf. 'day and night'
54. peace and war (*In pes and were*, I: 269): see also: 'war and peace'
55. pole and stars (*Aboue þe pole and þe sterres seuene*, I: 476)
56. prayer and request (*my prayer and requeste*, I: 493)
57. reign and land (*regne & lond*, I: 1): transl. for L 'in regno' (Griffin 1936: 5)
58. rest and quiet (*in reste and in quiete*, I: 444)

59. stars and constellation (*sterrys and constellacioun*, I: 672)
60. sword and pestilence (*With the swerde & stroke of pestilence*, I: 18)
61. tempest and lightning (*With sodeyn tempest and with fery levene*, I: 16)
62. tempest or wind (*Tempest or wynd*, I: 662)
63. sceptre and regalia (*septre and regalie*, I: 505)
64. shape and fairness (*his schap and also his fayrnes*, I: 153)
65. sorrow and sin (*sorowe and synne*, I: 240)
66. sorrow and woe (*sorwe and wo*, I: 248)
67. strength and hardiness (*For here* [i.e. their] *strenthe and grete hardynes*, I: 66)
68. support and help (*this support and þi sowpoaille*, I: 445): *sowpoaille* 'help, assistance, support'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *suppowaille*
69. surquidry and pride (*Of surquedrye or pride*, I: 452)
70. venom and hate (*Ful of venym and of cruel hate*, I: 305)
71. war and peace (*were and pees*, I: 1): see also: 'peace and war'
72. wisdom and advertence (*for wisdam & prudent aduertence*, I: 71)
73. wit and mind (*wit & mynde*, I: 122)
74. wit and reason (*witte & resoun*, I: 144)
75. woe and adversity (*his wo and gret aduersite*, I: 43)
76. woe and mischance (*of wo and al meschaunce*, I: 357)
77. worship and gentleness (*Vn-to worschip and to gentilnesse*, I: 437)

Names
78. Callisto and Arcadius (*Calixtone and Archadius*, I: 700): mother and son, who were first turned into bears and then into stars

1.2. Adjectives

1.2.1. Adjectives (Prologue)
1. bitter – sharp (*the bitter wyrdys scharpe*, Pr.: 50)
2. bright and clear (*More bry3t and clere*, Pr.: 170)
3. burnt and choleric (*brent and coleryk*, Pr.: 10)
4. dim and dark (*dyn and dirk*, Pr.: 60)
5. dreary – piteous (*the drery pitus fate*, Pr.: 105)
6. fresh and gay (*dites, þat wer so fresche & gay*, Pr.: 276)
7. high and low (*to hy3e and lowe*, Pr.: 112: adjs. used as nouns; *of hi3e or lowe estate*, Pr.: 182)
8. hot and dry (*hoot and drye*, Pr.: 8)
9. manful and virtuous (*manful and vertuous*, Pr.: 90)
10. new and new (*newe and newe assayes*, Pr.: 214; *new and newe*, Pr.: 253)
11. pale and wan (*pale and wan*, Pr.: 132)
12. quick and nothing faint (*quyk & no thing feynt*, Pr.: 255)

1.2.2. Adjectives (Book I)
1. discreet and sage (*discrete and sage*, I: 686)
2. discreet and wise (*discrete and wyse*, I: 679)

3. dreadful and perilous (*dredful and perilous*, I: 333)
4. dry and old (*a ȝerde that was drye and olde*, I: 138)
5. false and envious (*false and envious*, I: 249)
6. ferocious and dispiteous (*ful fel and dispitous*, I: 283)
7. free and bonded (*bothe to fre and bonde*, I: 316; adjs. used as nouns)
8. glad and fain (*glad and feyn*, I: 430)
9. green and fresh (*grene and fresche*, I: 141)
10. green and tender (*inly grene and tender*, I: 166)
11. high and low (*both to hyȝe and lowe*, I: 158: used as nouns and referring to social classes; *of hiȝe and lowe estate*, I: 442: used as adj.)
12. huge and great (*of huge and gret stature*, I: 300)
13. lusty – fresh (*þat lusty fresche sesoun*, I: 638)
14. lusty and new (*so lusty and so newe*, I: 380)
15. noble – royal (*oure noble estat rial*, I: 455)
16. old and young (*of old and ȝonge*, I: 163): 'everybody'
17. pale and wan (*pale and wan*, I: 46)
18. rampageous and wild (*ramegous and wylde*, I: 282)
19. safe and sound (*in body safe and sounde*, I: 485)
20. strong and superstitious (*strong and supersticious*, I: 363): allit.
21. terrified and confounded (*awaped and amaat*, I: 48): *awaped* 'struck with amazement or fear', cf. *MED*, s.v. *awhāped*; *amaat* 'overcome (as with fatigue or surprise)', cf. *MED*, s.v. *amāt*
22. wooden and furious (*wood and furious*, I: 284)
23. young and desirous (*was ȝonge and desyrous*, I: 386)
24. young and slender (*ȝonge and sklender*, I: 165)

1.3. Verbs

1.3.1. Verbs (Prologue)

1. behold and see (*ȝe may beholde and se*, Pr.: 369)
2. enacted and gilded (*they enacted and gilte*, Pr.: 198)
3. grafted and set (*hath ymped in and set*, Pr.: 366)
4. read or see (*rede or se*, Pr.: 379)
5. searched out and sought (*cerched out and souȝt*, Pr.: 163; *serched oute and souȝt*, Pr.: 318)

1.3.2. Verbs (Book I)

1. behold and see (*beholde and see*, I: 64)
2. bide and last (*bide and last*, I: 249)
3. blossom and bud (*to blosme and budde*, I: 140)
4. cast and fantasize (*cast and fantasieth*, I: 200)
5. close and hide (*to close and hide*, I: 209)
6. cast – lay low (*cast and leide full lowe*, I: 642)
7. conceal and close (*It was conceled & closed in secre*, I: 225)
8. enchase and void (*That it enchaseth & voideth*, I: 432)

9. enter and assay (*entren and assay*, I: 342): sequence of events
10. fordrive and cast (*fordryue and cast*, I: 718)
11. fordulled and dirked (*For-dulled wern and dirked so at al*, I: 114)
12. hurt and slay (*To hurte and sleen*, I: 285)
13. lose or win (*til he have lost or wonne*, I: 344): cf. Shakespeare's *Macbeth*
14. refresh and disport (*Hem to refresche and disporte*, I: 721)
15. save and defend (*to saue vs and diffende*, I: 448)
16. stellified and deified (*wern y-stellefied / In the heuene and y-deified*, I: 701–702)
17. strip and flay (*Out of his skyn he hath hym stripte & flawe*, I: 588)
18. wake or sleep (*where I wake or wynke*, I: 439): *winken* 'to close one's eyes, to sleep'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *winken*

1.4. Adverbs

1.4.1. Adverbs (Prologue)

1. true and well (*write trewe and wel*, Pr.: 314)

1.4.2. Adverbs (Book I)

1. by and by (*by and by*, I: 161, 569)
2. fair and womanly (*So inly fayr and womanly to sene*, I: 556)
3. little or nought (*Lytel or nou3t*, I: 417)
4. more and more (*alwey more and more*, I: 208)
5. near (nigh) or far (*ne3e or ferre*, I: 658)
6. platly and cunning (*platly and konnyng*, I: 149)
7. to and fro (*rooming to and fro*, I: 31)

2. Multinomials

2.1. Trinomials

2.1.1. Nouns (Prologue)

1. beast, fowl, and tree (*best[e], foule, and tree*, Pr.: 53)
2. fraud, negligence, or sloth (*With-out[e] fraude, necligence, or slowthe*, Pr.: 204)
3. laud, honour, excellence (*Laude and honour & excellence of fame*, Pr.: 373)

2.1.2. Nouns (Book I)

1. force, might, strength (*Of force, of my3t, of strenthe pereles*, I: 554)
2. governor, king, warrior (*a gouernour, / A noble kynge, a worthi weriour*, I: 263–264)
3. heart, will, thought (*with herte, wil, & þou3t*, I: 151)
4. incantations, sorcery, illusions (*by incantaciouns, / By sorserye and false illucions*, I: 350)
5. kingdom, land, heritage (*The worthi kyngdam and þe riche lande … / and the eritage*, I: 178–179)
6. thunderdent, hail, rain (*With thunder dent and with haiel and reyn*, I: 22)

7. worthiness, strength, hardiness (*for her worthines, / For her strenthe and grete hardynes*, I: 65–66; her 'their')

2.1.3. Adjectives (Prologue)

1. ireous, wood, melancholic (*Irows and wood and malencolyk*, Pr.: 9): 'angry, crazy, and melancholic'

2.1.4. Adjectives (Book I)

1. crooked, lame, blind (*he was croked, lame, & blynde*, I: 121)
2. marvellous, excellent, victorious (*was so merveillous, / So excellent, and so victoryous*, I: 565–566)
3. wise, discreet, sage (*wis, discret, and sage*, I: 265)
4. wise, discreet, virtuous (*Wys, & discrete & also virtuous*, I: 4)

2.1.5. Verbs (Prologue)

1. strive or counterplead or make any debate (*stryue, / Or counterplete or make any debate*, Pr.: 181): *pleten* 'argue, debate, take legal action'; cf. *MED*, s.v. *plēten*

2.1.6. Verbs (Book I)

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2.2. More than three constituents (quadrinomials etc.)

2.2.1. Nouns (Prologue)

1. renown, manhood, prowess, knighthood, worthiness, triumphs, victories, conquest, glories (*Her hyȝe renoun, her manhood and prowes / Her knyȝthood eke and he worthynes, / Her tryvmphs also and victories, / Her famous conquest and her songe glories*, Pr.: 198–202): nine elements
2. strife, war, siege, everything (*The stryfe, the were, þe sege and euerydel*, Pr.: 248): quadrinomial

2.2.2. Nouns (Book I)

1. age, wit, providence, heart, excellence, renown (*þin age, þi witte, þi prouidence, / þi knyȝtly hert, þi manly excellence, / … and þin hyȝe renoun*, I: 459–461)
2. cheer, port, sign, dalliance (*In cher, in port, by signe or daliaunce*, I: 409): quadrinomial
3. herbs, poisons, workings, artfulness (*For with hyr herbes and hir pociouns, / Sotyl wyrchyngees of confecciouns, / By queintyse eke of heir instrumentys*, I: 133–135)
4. shape, fairness, strength, beauty, liveliness, gentility, governance (*his schap and also his fayrnes, / His strenthe, his bewte, and his lyflynes, / His gentilles and wyse gouernaunce*, I: 155): a quintuplet; could also be interpreted as a sequence of a binomial, a trinomial, and a binomial
5. wisdom, advertence, labour, diligence, foreseeing, discretion (*for wisdam & prudent aduertence, / Besy labour and wilful diligence, / Hy for-seying and discrecioun*, I: 71–73): a sextuplet; could also be interpreted as a sequence of three binomials

Appendix II

The medieval world picture: planets, angels, and the Primum Mobile

This figure is based on Dante's world picture as expressed in his *Divina Commedia*, but Lydgate probably also still had the same medieval world picture; see also Lewis (1964). The figure has been taken from https://de.pinterest.com/cwinbot/dante- -inferno/. Cf. also map 8a (Karte 8a) in Sauer, Seitschek, Teuber (2016: 356).

The Nine Orders of Angels Circling around God
GOD
ROSE

I. Angels
II. Archangels
III. Principalities
IV. Powers
V. Virtues
VI. Dominions
VII. Thrones
VIII. Cherubim
IX. Seraphim

X. Empyrean
IX. Primum Mobile
VIII. Fixed Stars
VII. Saturn
VI. Jupiter
V. Mars
IV. Sun
III. Venus
II. Mercury
I. Moon
Earth

Nine Orders of Angels
Triumph of Christ
Contemplatives
Righteous Rulers
Martyrs and Crusaders
Theologians
Lovers
Lovers of Glory
Breakers of Vows